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ATTACK and DESTROY



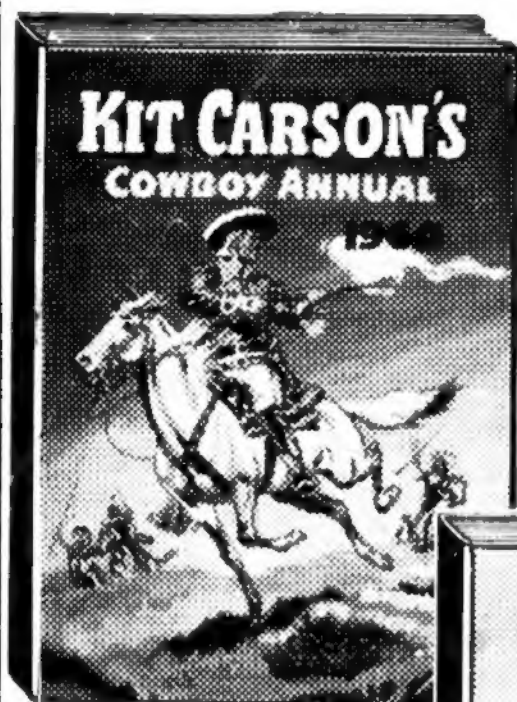
THREE GRAND ANNUALS

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

KIT CARSON ANNUAL

ALL THE THRILLS OF THE
EXCITING WEST. GRAND
STORIES AND PICTURE-
STORIES

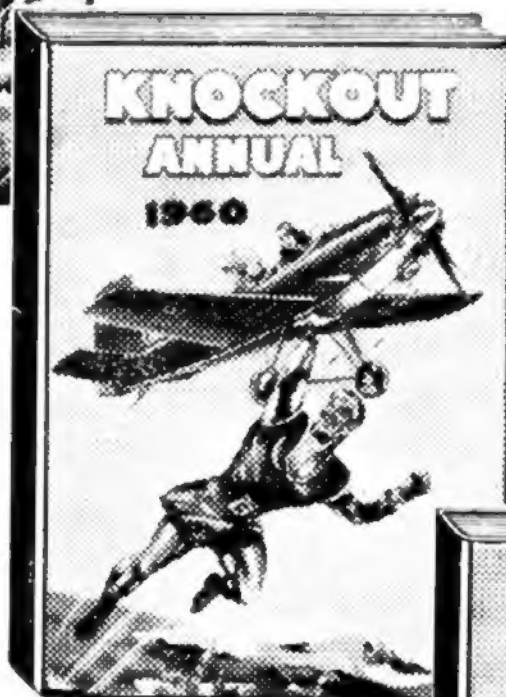
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KNOCKOUT ANNUAL

Thrills and fun
with Sexton Blake,
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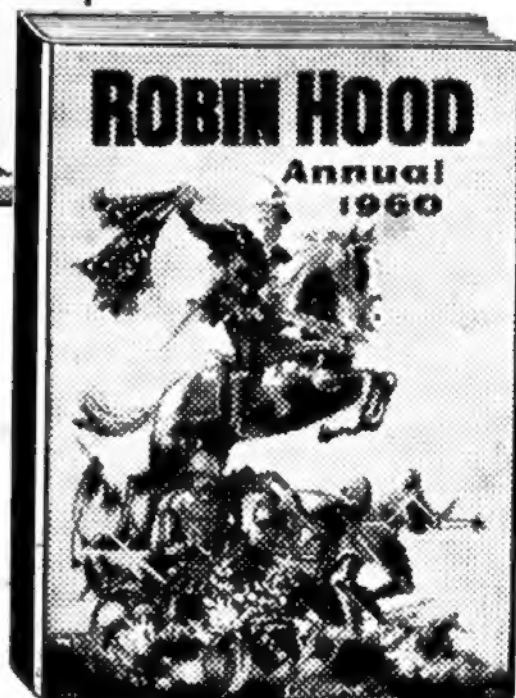


**DON'T
MISS
THEM!**

ROBIN HOOD ANNUAL

Rousing adventures in the Greenwood in
pictures and stories.

PRICE **7/6** ON SALE NOW



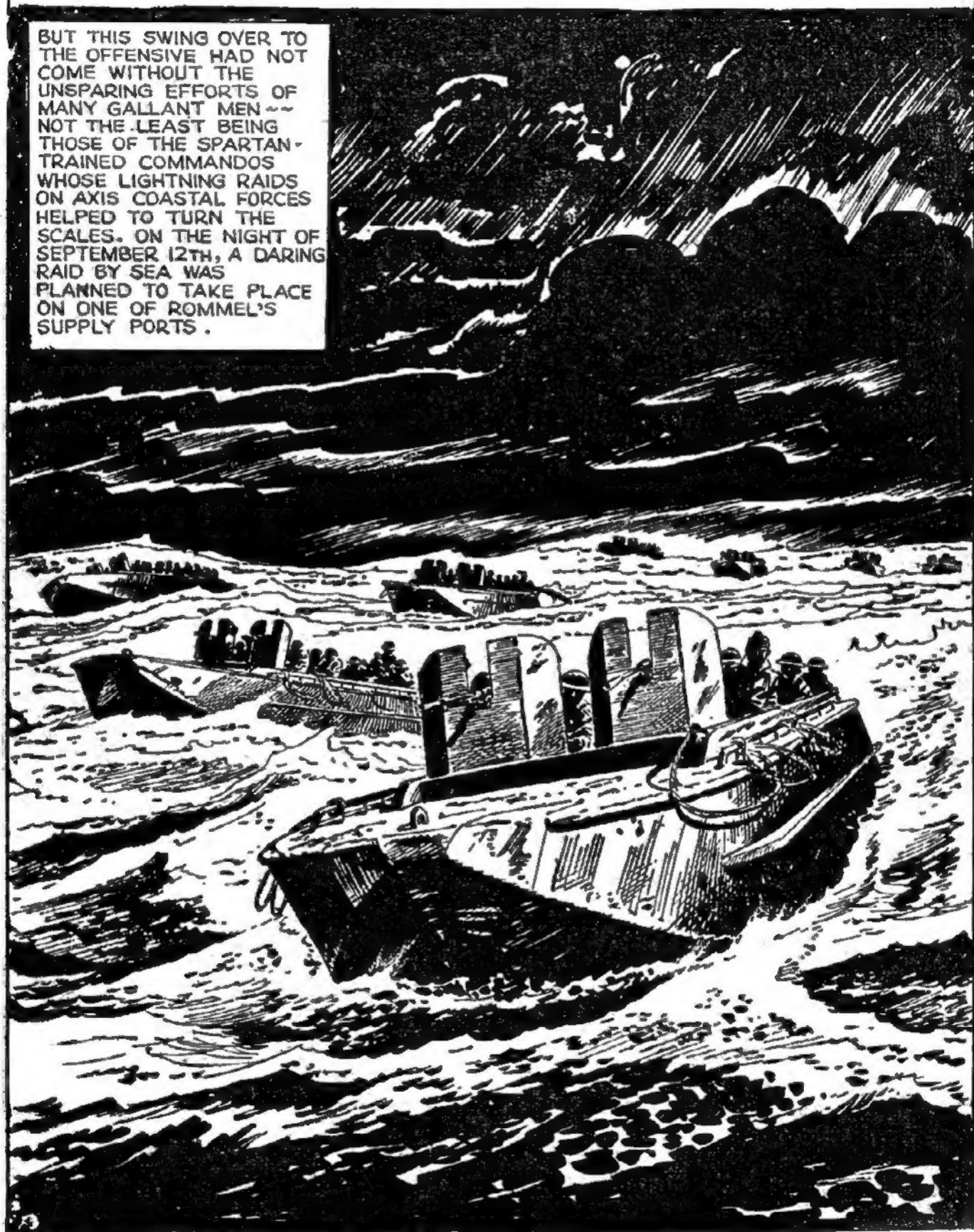
ATTACK *and* DESTROY

BY THE AUTUMN OF 1942, GENERAL MONTGOMERY'S EIGHTH ARMY, LONG HUMILIATED BY THE BETTER EQUIPPED GERMAN AFRIKA KORPS, WAS RE-ARMED AND RENEWED IN STRENGTH AND COURAGE. CROUCHING BEHIND THE MASSED MIGHT OF THE BRITISH GUNS, TANKS AND INFANTRY PREPARED TO LAUNCH A SAVAGE OFFENSIVE WHICH IT WAS HOPED WOULD SEND ROMMEL'S FORCES REELING BACK TO TUNIS.



*Chapter 1.***ASSAULT PARTY**

BUT THIS SWING OVER TO THE OFFENSIVE HAD NOT COME WITHOUT THE UNSPARING EFFORTS OF MANY GALLANT MEN -- NOT THE LEAST BEING THOSE OF THE SPARTAN-TRAINED COMMANDOS WHOSE LIGHTNING RAIDS ON AXIS COASTAL FORCES HELPED TO TURN THE SCALES. ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 12TH, A DARING RAID BY SEA WAS PLANNED TO TAKE PLACE ON ONE OF ROMMEL'S SUPPLY PORTS.



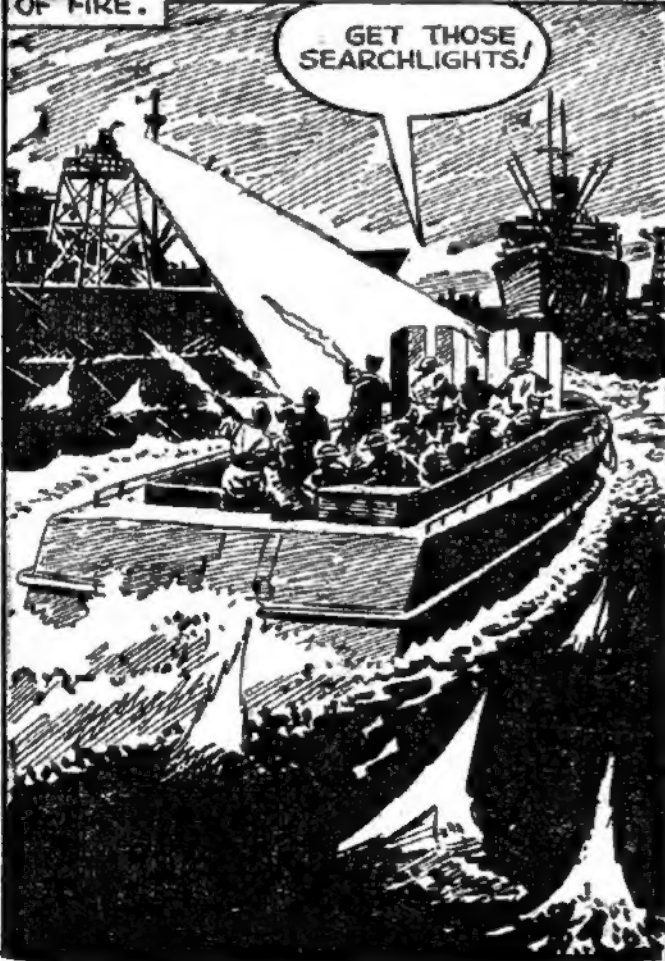
BUT AS THE SMALL FORCE OF ASSAULT BARGES MADE FOR THE ENEMY-HELD PORT A STORM BROKE, AND THE ROUGH SEAS FORCED HALF OF THEM OFF COURSE. THOSE WHICH REACHED THE HARBOUR ENTRANCE WERE QUICKLY SPOTTED AND FIRED UPON BY THE GERMAN PORT DEFENCES. BUT THE COMMANDO LEADER, MAJOR COLIN NELSON, ORDERED HIS MEN TO PRESS ON TOWARDS THE QUAYSIDE.

KEEP GOING, MEN!



CASUALTIES BEGAN TO MOUNT AS THE COMMANDOS CHURNED INTO A CURTAIN OF FIRE.

GET THOSE SEARCHLIGHTS!



THE HELMSMAN OF NUMBER THREE CRAFT WAS HIT. THE BOAT BROACHED TO AND A WAVE CARRIED HER BROADSIDE INTO THE LINE OF FIRE FROM THE ENEMY'S MACHINE GUNS. THE COMMANDOS JUMPED INTO THE SEA AND BEGAN SWIMMING TO THE QUAYSIDE ...

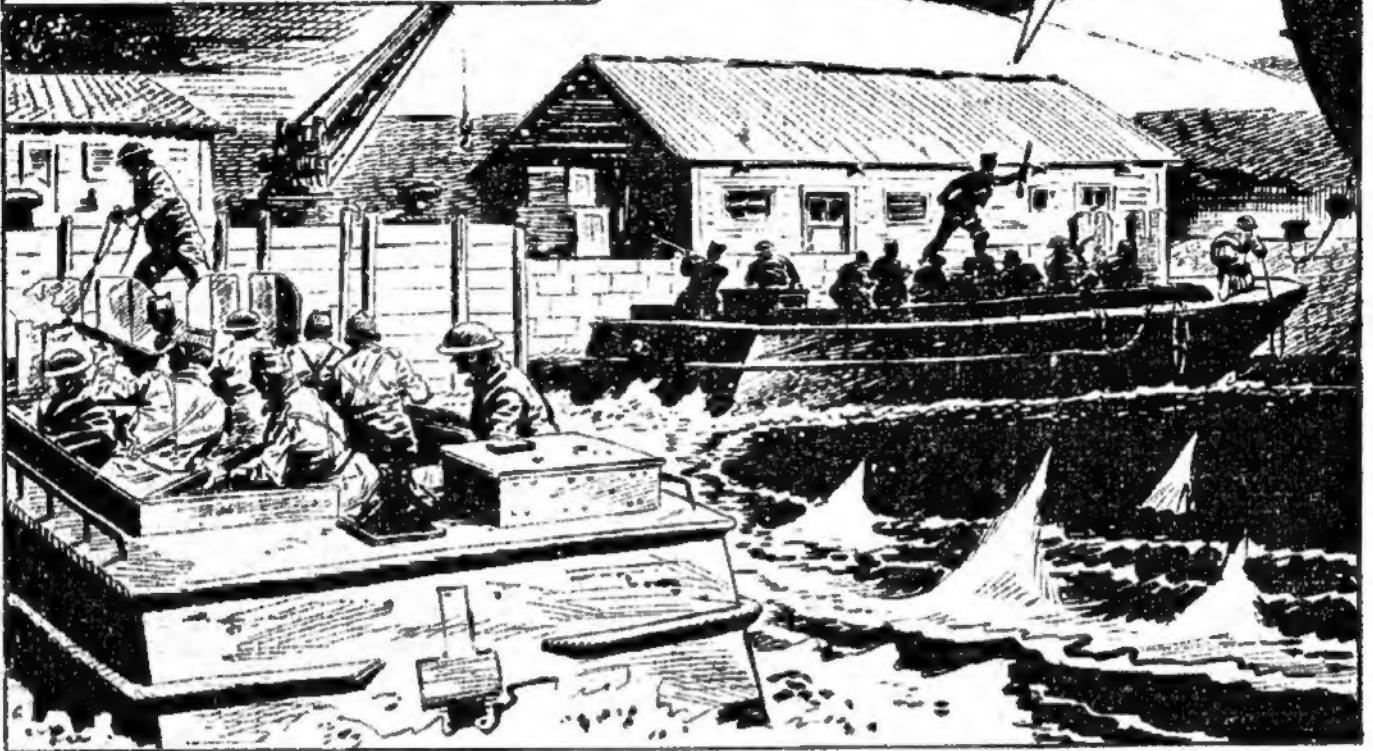
JUMP!



Attack and Destroy

WITH TYPICAL COMMANDO GALLANTRY THE REMAINING ASSAULT CRAFT STORMED IN TOWARDS THE QUAYSIDE WITH EVERY GUN BLAZING. THEN, AS COLIN NELSON'S CRAFT REACHED THE QUAY WALL, HE LEAPED ASHORE.

FOLLOW ME,
AND SHOOT UP
ANYTHING YOU SEE!



MORE OF THE GALLANT TASK FORCE LANDED...WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES. BUT COLIN AND THE REMAINDER OF HIS MEN PUT UP A TERRIFIC FIGHT AND TWO GERMAN GUN POSITIONS WERE SILENCED AND DAMAGE WAS DONE TO DOCKSIDE INSTALLATIONS AND SHIPPING.

TIME TO
GET OUT, MEN.
WITHDRAW TO
THE BOATS!





REACHING THEIR ASSAULT CRAFT, THE COMMANDOS PUT TO SEA UNDER A DEADLY PATTERN OF CROSSFIRE FROM THE ENEMY. THE SEA WAS STILL ROUGH AND THEIR BOATS LURCHED CRAZILY AS SHELLS BURST ALL AROUND THEM.



Attack and Destroy

RETURNING TO EL ALAMEIN, COLIN NELSON TALKED OVER THE RAID WITH HIS COMMANDING OFFICER, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FRAZER, WHO AGREED THAT ALTHOUGH THE MISSION HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL, MANY USEFUL LESSONS HAD BEEN LEARNED.

THE STORM UPSET OUR SURPRISE LANDING AND THE ENEMY SPOTTED US TOO EARLY!

NEVER AGAIN DO WE MAKE A FRONTAL ATTACK ON AN ENEMY FORTIFIED POSITION. IT'S TOO COSTLY!



THREE MONTHS LATER, RÖMML'S PROUD AFRIKA KORPS HAD BEEN DRIVEN INTO THE TIP OF TUNIS, BUT THEY WERE STILL MAKING SAVAGE SORTIES ON THE ENCIRCLING ALLIES. THE FINAL BATTLE THREATENED TO BE A LONG, DESPERATE AFFAIR. THEN ONE DAY, COLIN NELSON WAS SUMMONED TO GENERAL BADGERSON'S HEADQUARTERS.

WONDER WHAT NEW OPERATIONS THE BADGER'S COOKING UP, NOW?



Attack and Destroy

7

COLIN'S COMMANDING OFFICER WAS ALREADY WITH GENERAL BADGERSON WHEN HE ARRIVED. THE GENERAL WASTED NO WORDS.

WE'VE GOT ROMMEL IN A CORNER AND WE COULD DELIVER THE KNOCK-OUT BUT FOR ONE THING... HIS AIR SUPERIORITY. HIS PLANES CAN FREELY USE THE FLAT STRIP AROUND THE COAST. BUT WE CAN'T CARVE AIRFIELDS OUT OF THESE MOUNTAINS.



THE CHIEF HEADACHE SEEMS TO BE THE ENEMY'S STUKA DIVE BOMBERS... THEY'RE GIVING THE TROOPS A ROUGH TIME.

AND HAMPERING THEIR LINE-UP FOR THE FINAL ASSAULT.



WE HAVE TRIED EVERY MEANS TO DESTROY THESE CONFOUNDED STUKAS ~~~ EXCEPT BY COMMANDO RAID. IT IS OUR LAST WEAPON. WE WANT YOU TO HAVE A CRACK AT IT, MAJOR NELSON!



Attack and Destroy

COLIN HURRIED BACK TO HIS TENT AND CALLED IN THREE COMMANDO VETERANS ... CAPTAIN "JUMBO" FREEMAN AND TWO WAR-HARDENED MARINE COMMANDOS WHO WERE ATTACHED TO THE UNIT.

IT'S GOING TO BE A TOUGH JOB TO GET NEAR THE AIRFIELD, LET ALONE DESTROY THE STUKAS.

WE'LL FIND A WAY, MAJOR. LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE MAP.



BUT THE MORE THEY STUDIED THE POSITION OF THE GERMAN AIRSTRIP, THE TRICKIER THE TASK SEEMED.

HERE'S THE STUKA AIRFIELD -- BANG ON THE COAST.

JERRY'S COASTAL DEFENCES ARE TOO STRONG AND ALERT FOR US TO MAKE A SEA ATTACK.

AND THEY'VE MASSED EVERYTHING THEY HAVE AROUND THE AIRFIELD!



Attack and Destroy

THAT NIGHT, AS COLIN WRESTLED WITH THE PROBLEM, A SEA ACTION OCCURRED OFF TUNIS WHICH WAS TO MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SUCCESS AND FAILURE OF HIS MISSION.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THOSE TWO DARK SHAPES, NUMBER ONE?

I'D SAY THEY WERE A COUPLE OF EYDIE SUPPLY SHIPS SNEAKING INTO TUNIS.

AGREED, ACTION STATIONS!

WITH HER CREW PREPARED FOR ACTION, H.M.S. *STALLION* MANOEUVRED FOR A TORPEDO ATTACK ON THE TWO ENEMY SHIPS.

READY, ONE AND TWO TORPEDOES?



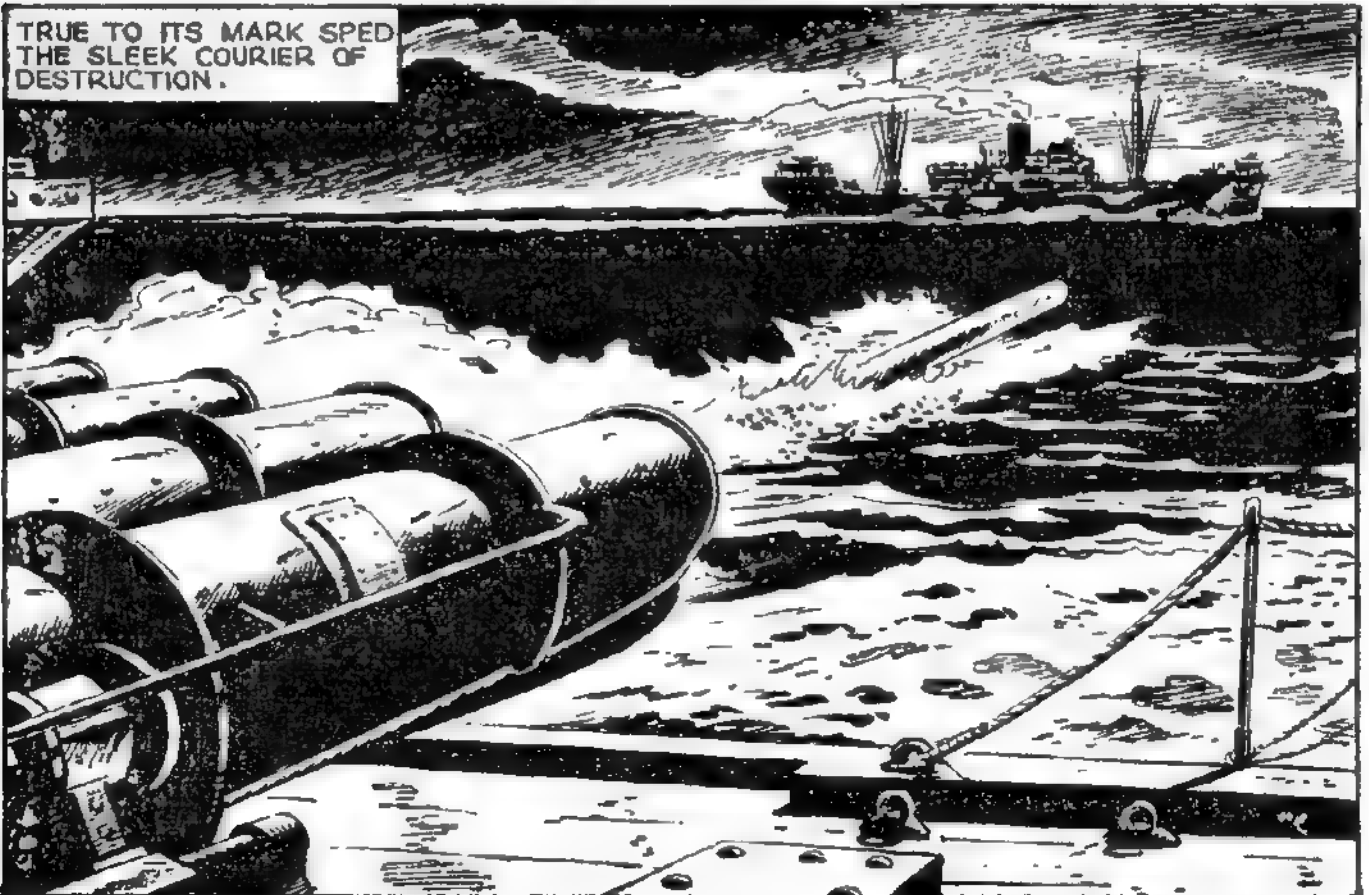
Attack and Destroy

REMORSELESSLY THE LITTLE SHIP
MOVED IN TO PERFORM HER
DREAD DUTY... THEN OUT
RANG THE COMMAND

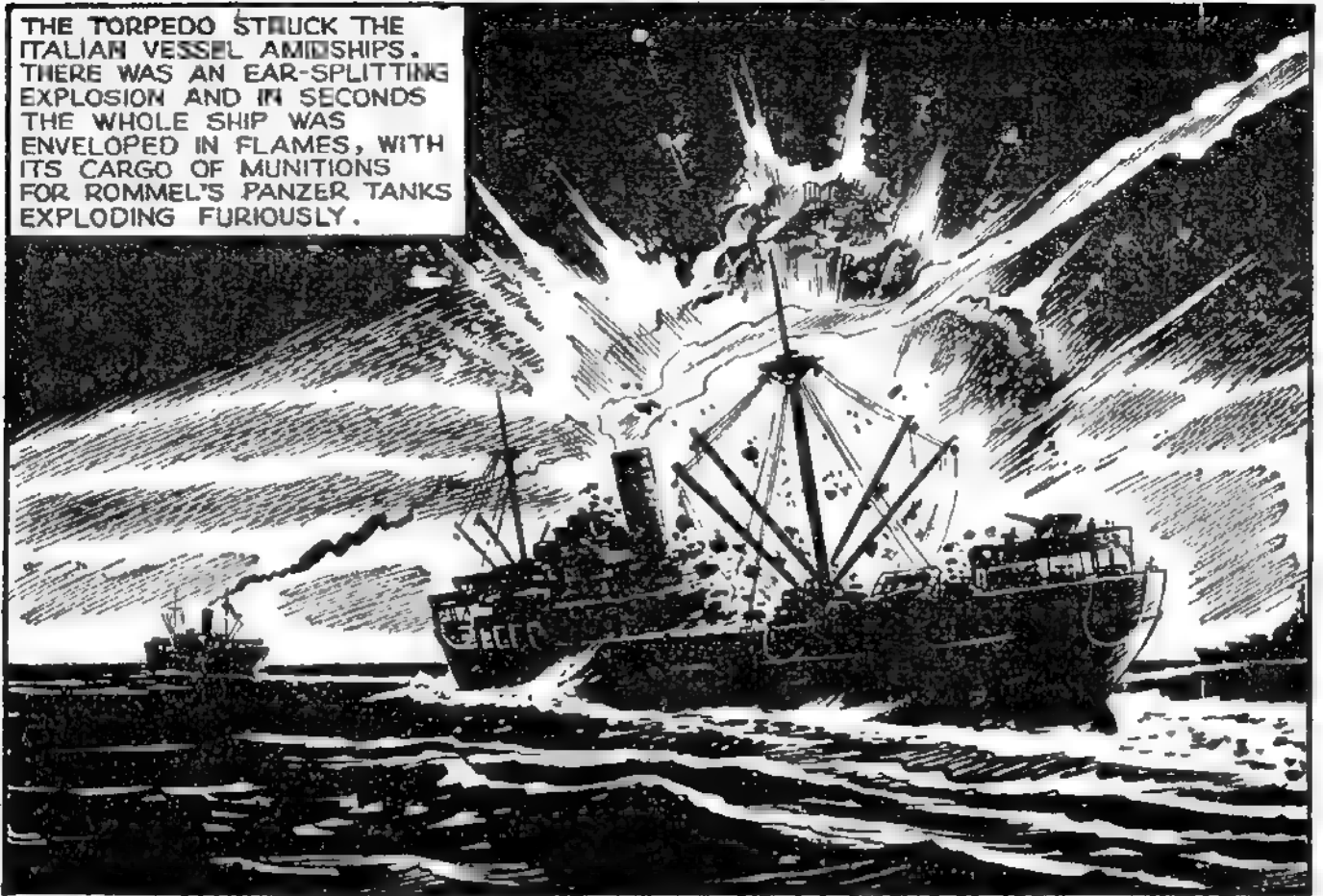
FIRE
ONE!



TRUE TO ITS MARK SPED
THE SLEEK COURIER OF
DESTRUCTION.



THE TORPEDO STRUCK THE ITALIAN VESSEL AMIDSHIPS. THERE WAS AN EAR-SPLITTING EXPLOSION AND IN SECONDS THE WHOLE SHIP WAS ENVELOPED IN FLAMES, WITH ITS CARGO OF MUNITIONS FOR ROMMEL'S PANZER TANKS EXPLODING FURIOUSLY.



THE SECOND SUPPLY SHIP MET THE SAME FATE ...



Attack and Destroy

THE TWO SHIPS SANK QUICKLY AND THE BRITISH DESTROYER, WITH SEARCHLIGHTS BLAZING ACROSS THE WATER, SENT HER BOATS TO PICK UP SURVIVORS.



NEWS OF THE SINKING OF THE TWO ENEMY SUPPLY SHIPS MEANT LITTLE TO COLIN NELSON WHEN HE HEARD IT. HE HAD AT LAST STUMBLED UPON AN IDEA THAT MIGHT GET HIS RAIDING PARTY TO THE STUKA AIRFIELD.



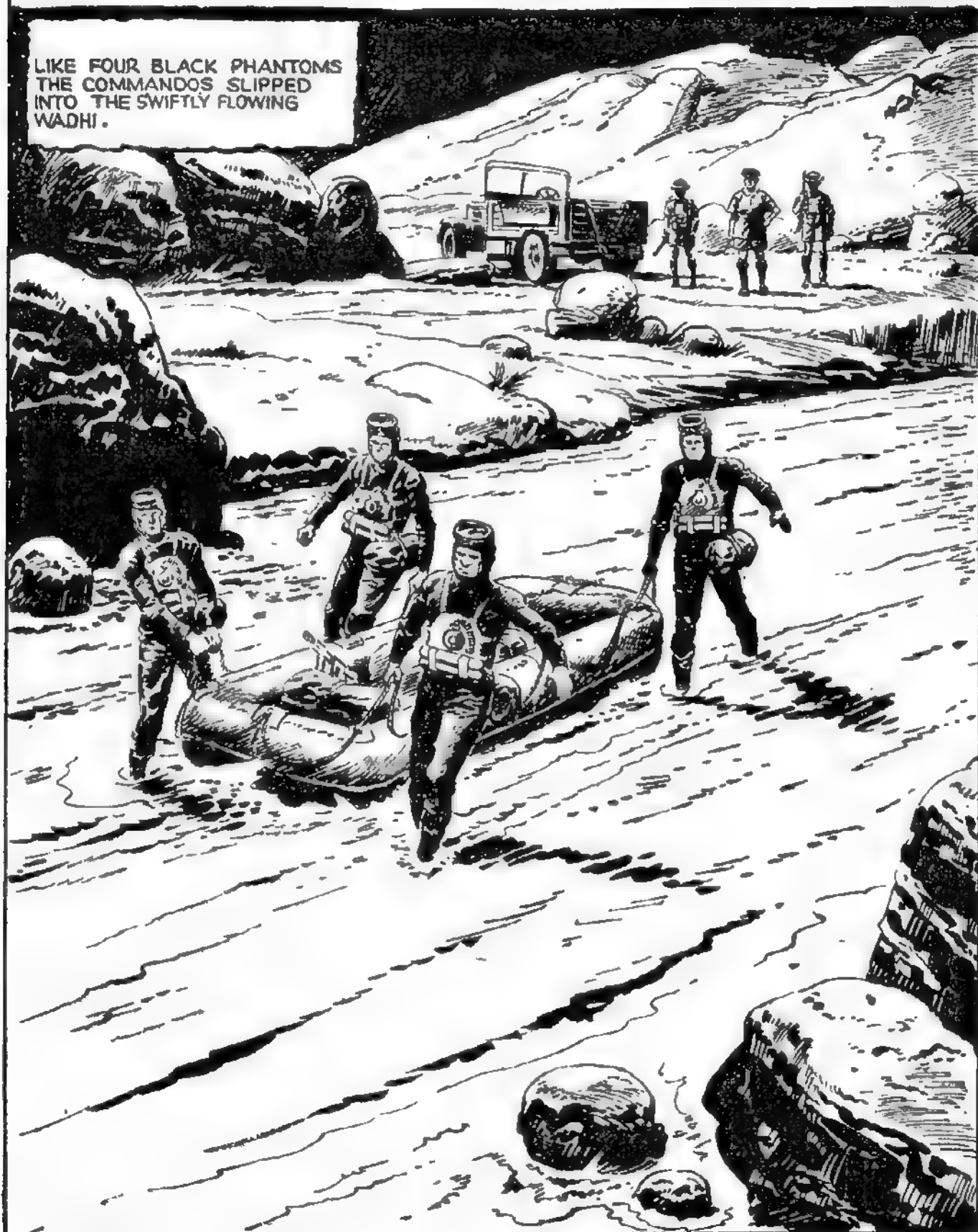
CAPTAIN "JUMBO" FREEMAN FETCHED MARINES WILLIS AND MASON AND ONCE MORE THEY WENT OVER THE MAP. COLIN SPOKE WITH SUPPRESSED EXCITEMENT.





Chapter 2. **THE TORRENT**

LIKE FOUR BLACK PHANTOMS
THE COMMANDOS SLIPPED
INTO THE SWIFTLY FLOWING
WADHI.



THEY PUSHED OFF WITH EACH MAN GRASPING A ROPE, AND WERE RELIEVED TO FIND THAT THE CURRENT WAS NOT TOO STRONG. AFTER TWENTY MINUTES...

LUMME, LOOKS PRETTY 'ORRIBLE, DON'T IT?

WE SHOULD BE NEARING THE ENEMY BRIDGE.



TO ADD TO THE EERINESS, A TYPICALLY SUDDEN DESERT THUNDERSTORM BROKE OUT, BRINGING TORRENTIAL RAIN.



Attack and Destroy

BLACK CLOUDS COVERED THE MOON AND BLINDING RAIN DOUBLED THE DARKNESS. COLIN PEERED ANXIOUSLY AHEAD ...

THIS DOWNPOUR MIGHT KEEP THE GUARDS UNDER COVER AT THE BRIDGE.

BY JIMINY... WE COULDN'T GET MUCH WETTER!



PRESENTLY...

LOOK...THE BRIDGE!

CAN'T SEE ANY JERRIES... PERHAPS THEY'RE ALL ASLEEP!



THE INTREPID PARTY
WORKED OVER TO THE
BANK ...

STAY HERE
WHILE I HAVE
A LOOK
AHEAD.

WE'VE
GOT TO GET
UNDER THAT
BRIDGE
SOMEHOW!



PUTTING ON HIS MASK,
COLIN SLID UNDERWATER
AND SWAM TOWARDS
THE BRIDGE ...

NOW TO GO UP TOP
AND SEE WHERE JERRY
HAS HIS GUARDS PLACED.
LET'S HOPE THEY DON'T
SPOT ME FIRST!



Attack and Destroy

BUT AS THE YOUNG MAJOR WENT TO SURFACE, HE HEARD A VAGUE RUMBLING ROAR. WITH EACH PASSING SECOND IT GREW TERRIFYINGLY LOUDER AND THE WATER AROUND HIM BEGAN TO FLOW MORE SWIFTLY ..

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



COLIN IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO SWIM FOR THE BANK WHERE HE HAD LEFT HIS THREE COMRADES ...

QUICK, COLIN, SWIM FOR YOUR LIFE!



THE STORM WATER!

SWELLED BY THE TORRENTIAL RAIN WHICH HAD FALLEN UPON ITS UPPER REACHES, THE SWOLLEN RIVER WAS DESCENDING UPON THEM IN A SOLID WALL OF WATER!

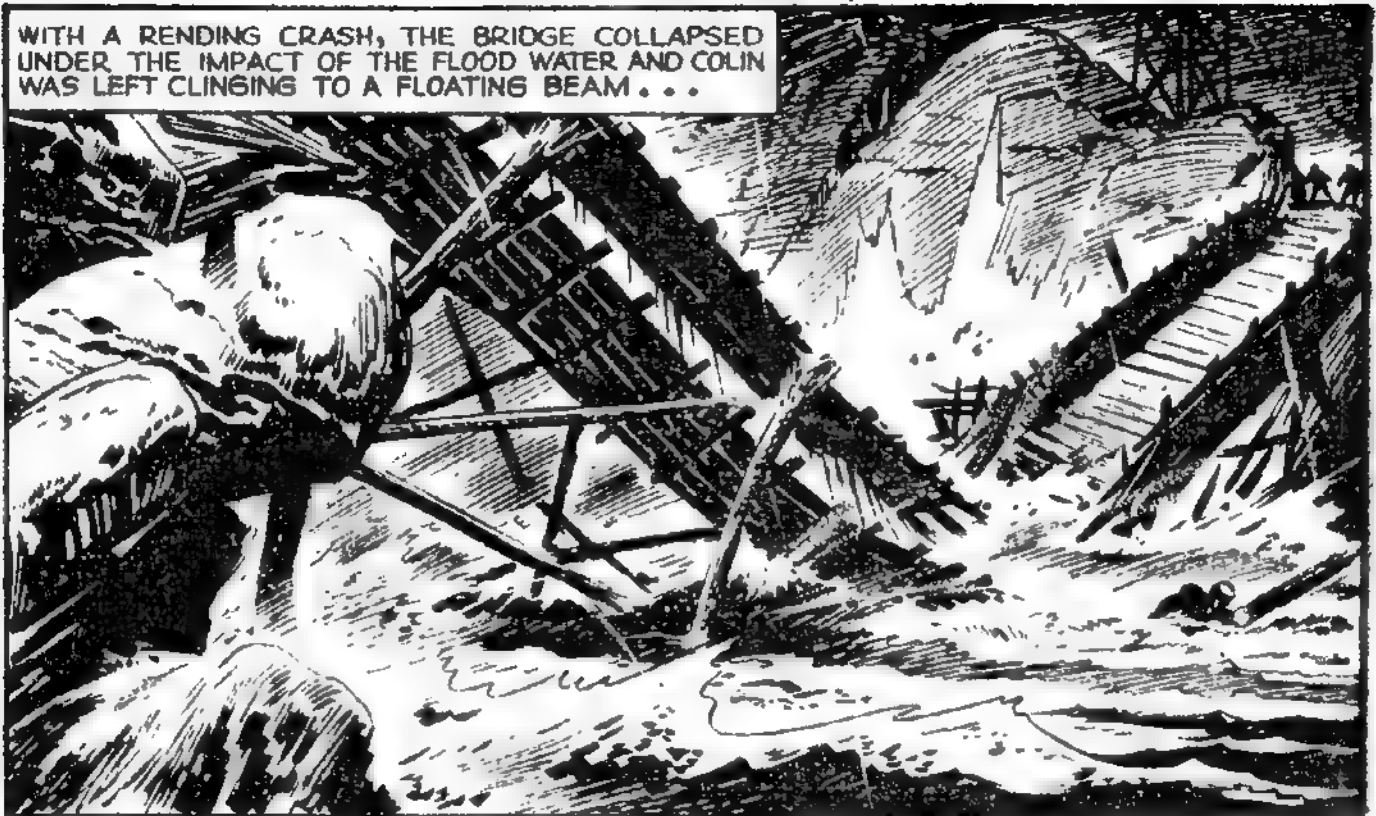
FRANTICALLY COLIN TRIED TO REACH THE BANK, BUT THE SWEEPING WALL OF WATER CARRIED HIM REMORSELESSLY TOWARDS THE BRIDGE ...



THE COMMANDO GRASPED ONE OF THE BRIDGE SUPPORTS AS HE WAS CARRIED AGAINST IT ...



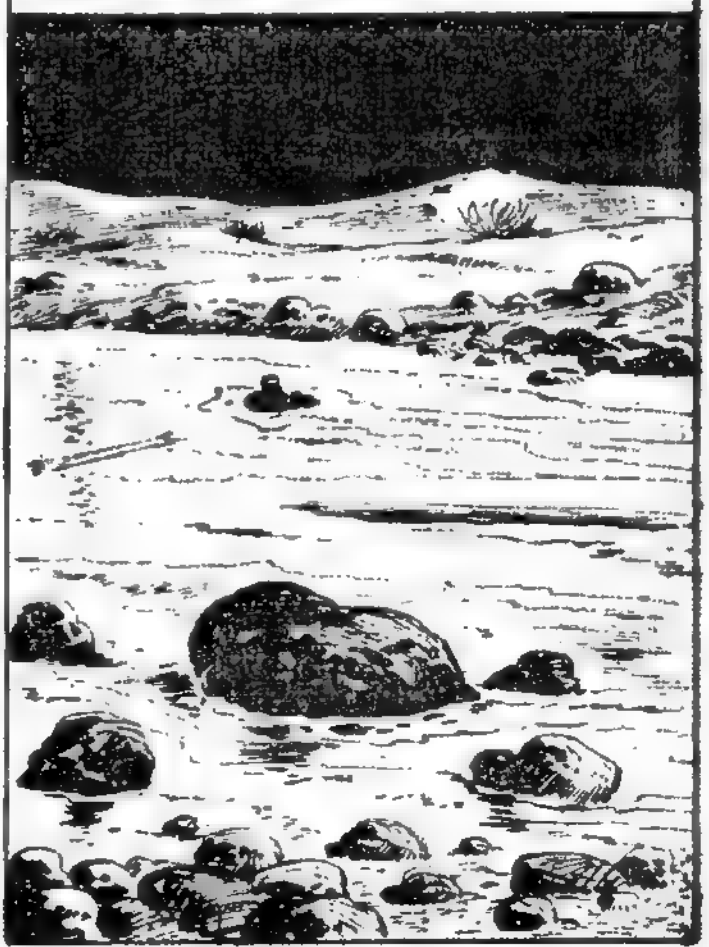
WITH A RENDING CRASH, THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE FLOOD WATER AND COLIN WAS LEFT CLINGING TO A FLOATING BEAM . . .



ONLY HALF-CONSCIOUS, COLIN NELSON WAS SWEEPED AWAY BY THE GREAT RUSH OF WATER . . .



HE WAS CARRIED ALONG TO WHERE THE RIVER WIDENED IN THE PLAINS AND THE SURGE OF WATER CEASED . . .



THE COMMANDO OFFICER HAD BARELY ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO PULL HIMSELF ON TO THE BANK AND ONLY WHEN HE HAD RESTED WAS HE ABLE TO TAKE STOCK OF HIS PLIGHT ...

MAYBE THE OTHERS CAME THROUGH ALL RIGHT. BUT IT LOOKS AS IF OUR MISSION HAS FAILED! THIS IS WHERE THE ARAB CLOTHES WILL BE NEEDED ...



COLIN WAITED, HOPING THAT HIS COMRADES HAD SURVIVED THE FLOOD WATER. BUT THAT EVENING HE DECIDED TO GO ON ALONE.

I'LL CARRY ON TO THE AIRFIELD AND MAKE A RECCE FOR A RAID SOME OTHER TIME.



WEARING HIS ARAB BURNOUS, THE YOUNG OFFICER SET OFF ACROSS THE PLAIN.

FIVE MILES DUE EAST SHOULD BRING ME SOMEWHERE NEAR TO THE STUKA AIRFIELD.



COLIN MADE GOOD PROGRESS UNTIL, UNKNOWNLY, HE SET FOOT IN ONE OF THE TREACHEROUS "CHOTTS". IN SECONDS, HE WAS BEING SUCKED INTO THE SALTY QUICKSAND.

I'M SINKING!



HE TRIED TO GET BACK THE WAY HE HAD COME BUT ONLY SANK FURTHER INTO THE MUD.



STIFLING HIS FEARS HE FORCED HIMSELF TO KEEP STILL, FOR EVERY MOVEMENT HE MADE SEEMED TO MAKE HIM SINK MORE QUICKLY.



THEN A FAINT FAR-OFF SOUND REACHED HIS EARS...THE SOUND OF HUMAN VOICES.



COLIN SHOUTED AGAIN AND AGAIN AND WHEN HE HAD ALMOST GIVEN UP HOPE OF RESCUE, THREE MUFFLED, SILENT FIGURES APPEARED OUT OF THE DARKNESS.

WELL ...
AM I GLAD
TO SEE YOU!



AFTER SOME MUTTERED DEBATE AND WITHOUT ANY SHOW OF HURRY, TWO OF THE ARABS APPROACHED TO THE EDGE OF THE QUICKSAND AND DRAGGED COLIN CLEAR.



Chapter 3. LONE RECONNAISSANCE

STILL WITHOUT A WORD, COLIN'S RESCUERS MARCHED HIM TO THEIR DESERT DWELLING. THE SHIVERING MAJOR'S FEELING OF GRATITUDE WAS MIXED WITH CAUTION.



GLANCING AT THE RING OF IMPASSIVE FACES IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GUESS WHETHER HE -- A BRITISHER -- WAS REGARDED AS FRIEND OR FOE.

THE ARMIES OF THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS COME TO HELP YOU. THE GERMANS FLEE AND SOON THEY WILL BE DRIVEN FROM YOUR LANDS.



BUT THE 'ARABS' ONLY REPLY WAS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE BRITISH BOMBERS WHICH HAD ATTACKED THE NEARBY GERMAN AIRFIELD. SOME OF THEIR BOMBS HAD FALLEN CLOSE TO ARAB VILLAGES.

WHEN THE GERMAN AIRFIELD IS DESTROYED THERE WILL COME NO MORE BRITISH BOMBERS. THAT DAY WILL BE SOON... IF YOU HELP ME!

BUT THE ARABS DID NOT ANSWER HIM.

THE NEXT MORNING COLIN WAS ALARMED TO SEE A GERMAN TRUCK PULLING UP IN THE VILLAGE. HAD THE ARABS REPORTED HIM, HE WONDERED?

NOW WHAT?



Attack and Destroy

THE ARABS BEGAN TO CLIMB INTO THE TRUCK AND BECKONED TO COLIN TO DO THE SAME...

HURRY!

I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE THAT THESE ARABS MEAN WELL.



THE TRUCK TOOK A TWISTING ROUTE AND COLIN GUESSED THAT THEY WERE PASSING THROUGH AN ENEMY MINEFIELD.

WHAT WITH QUICKSANDS AND MINEFIELDS, THIS APPROACH TO THE AIRFIELD IS PRETTY WELL LOOKED AFTER.



IT WAS NOT UNTIL THEY REACHED THE AIRFIELD THAT COLIN'S DOUBTS ABOUT THE ARABS' INTENTIONS WERE QUELLED. THEY WENT OFF TO THEIR WORK LEAVING HIM TO HIS OWN DEVICES, BUT AS HE LOOKED ABOUT UNCERTAINLY, THE GERMAN TRUCK DRIVER STORMED UP.

HIMMEL -- YOU FLEA-RIDDEN VERMIN -- GET WORKING!



QUICKLY COLIN JOINED THE ARABS AND BEGAN WORKING. AS HE DID SO HE NOTED THE GERMAN AIRFIELD DEFENCES, THE SENTRIES PATROLLING THE AIRSTRIP, THE GUN POSITIONS ON THE AIRFIELD PERIMETER.

THE AMMUNITION STORE -- WHERE IS IT, I WONDER?



COLIN WAS ABLE TO SIZE UP THE WHOLE AIRFIELD WHEN HE WENT ON A GERMAN TRUCK TO FETCH MORE STONES.

GOSH! THIS PLACE IS SOME SIZE! IT'LL TAKE A BIG PARTY TO BUST IT UP!



THE TRUCK PASSED THROUGH ANOTHER MINEFIELD ~ THIS TIME TO THE BEACH. HERE, AN ARAB PARTY WERE BUILDING GUN EMPLACEMENTS.

THE JERRY DEFENCES HERE AREN'T SO HOT. JUST THE PLACE FOR AN ASSAULT ~ FRONTAL AT THAT!



DARKNESS CAME AND THE ARABS CLIMBED INTO A TRUCK TO RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGE... BUT COLIN MELTED INTO THE SHADOWS. SOON THE SUBMARINE WHICH WAS TO HAVE PICKED UP HIS ORIGINAL PARTY WOULD BE WAITING OFFSHORE.



COLIN HID UNTIL CLOSE TO THE APPOINTED HOUR OF THE RENDEZVOUS AND THEN SLID DOWN TO THE SHORE.

I HOPE THAT SUB TURNS UP.



BUT A LOOSE ROCK
BETRAYED HIM AND
INSTANTLY A HARSH
CHALLENGE RANG OUT.

VAS
IST ?



CURIOSITY BROUGHT THE
GERMAN SENTRY
NEARER AND COLIN
HAD TO MOVE FAST.



WITH BULLETS SINGING PAST HIS EARS, HE RACED FOR THE WATER!



PURSUED BY A STREAM OF BULLETS, COLIN STRUCK OUT FOR DEEPER WATER AND THEN DIVED.



WHEN AT LAST HE SURFACED, HE SHELTERED BEHIND SOME FLOATING CRATES FROM THE PROBING SEARCHLIGHTS AND HAPHAZARDLY AIMED BULLETS.

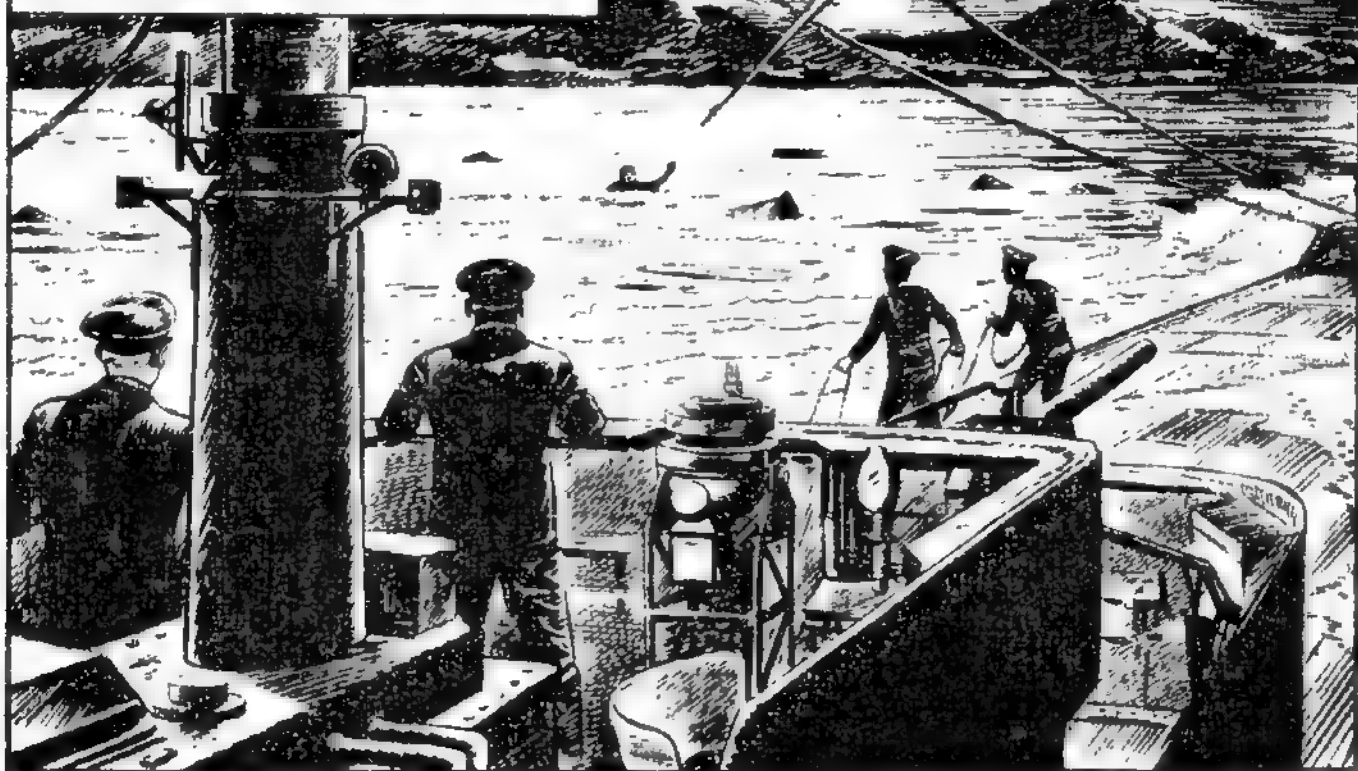


IT WAS SOME TIME BEFORE THE GERMANS CEASED FIRING AND DOUSED THEIR SEARCHLIGHTS.

Attack and Destroy

THEN, SUDDENLY, NOT FAR OFF, A DARK SHAPE EMERGED FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA. IT WAS A BRITISH SUBMARINE... AND FIGURES APPEARED IN THE CONNING TOWER AND ON DECK.

AHOY THERE!



COLIN SWAM TO THE SUBMARINE AND WAS HAULED ABOARD.

OPERATION SUCCESSFUL, MAJOR?

I'M AFRAID NOT. THE OTHERS ARE MISSING.





ALL THAT FLOTSAM
MUST HAVE COME FROM
THE EYTIE SUPPLY SHIP
THAT WAS TORPEDOED
THE OTHER NIGHT.

JERRY MUST BE
GETTING USED TO
THIS SORT OF THING
ALONG THIS STRETCH
OF COAST

COLIN HAD BARELY UTTERED
THE WORDS WHEN AN IDEA
STRUCK HIM ...



THOSE ORANGE BOXES
IN THE WATER!
WONDER...?

ARRIVING BACK AT
HIS HEADQUARTERS,
COLIN'S SUPERIORS
LISTENED TO THE
STORY OF THE
OPERATION WITH
GRAVE FACES. WHEN
COLIN HAD FINISHED
SPEAKING, THE
GENERAL ASKED A
FEW QUESTIONS ..
AND GAVE SOME
BAD NEWS.

THOSE CONFOUNDED STUKAS
HAVE BLASTED ANOTHER COMPLETE
BATTERY OF TWENTY-FIVE POUNDERS
TO SCRAP IRON! HOW MANY
STUKAS DID YOU SEE ON THE
AIRFIELD, MAJOR NELSON?

ABOUT
THIRTY
SIR



Attack and Destroy

COLIN THEN OUTLINED HIS PLAN FOR ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE GERMAN AIRFIELD ...

A FRONTAL
ATTACK, SIR. I'M
SURE WE COULD
PULL IT OFF!



THE GENERAL AND COLONEL FRAZER LISTENED INTENTLY TO THE EAGER YOUNG MAJOR, AND WHEN HE HAD FINISHED ...

IT'S A GOOD PLAN,
MAJOR. VERY WELL. PICK
YOUR MEN FOR THE TASK.



COLIN NELSON IMMEDIATELY GATHERED A SMALL FORCE OF COMMANDOS AND BRIEFED THEM ON THE RAID ...

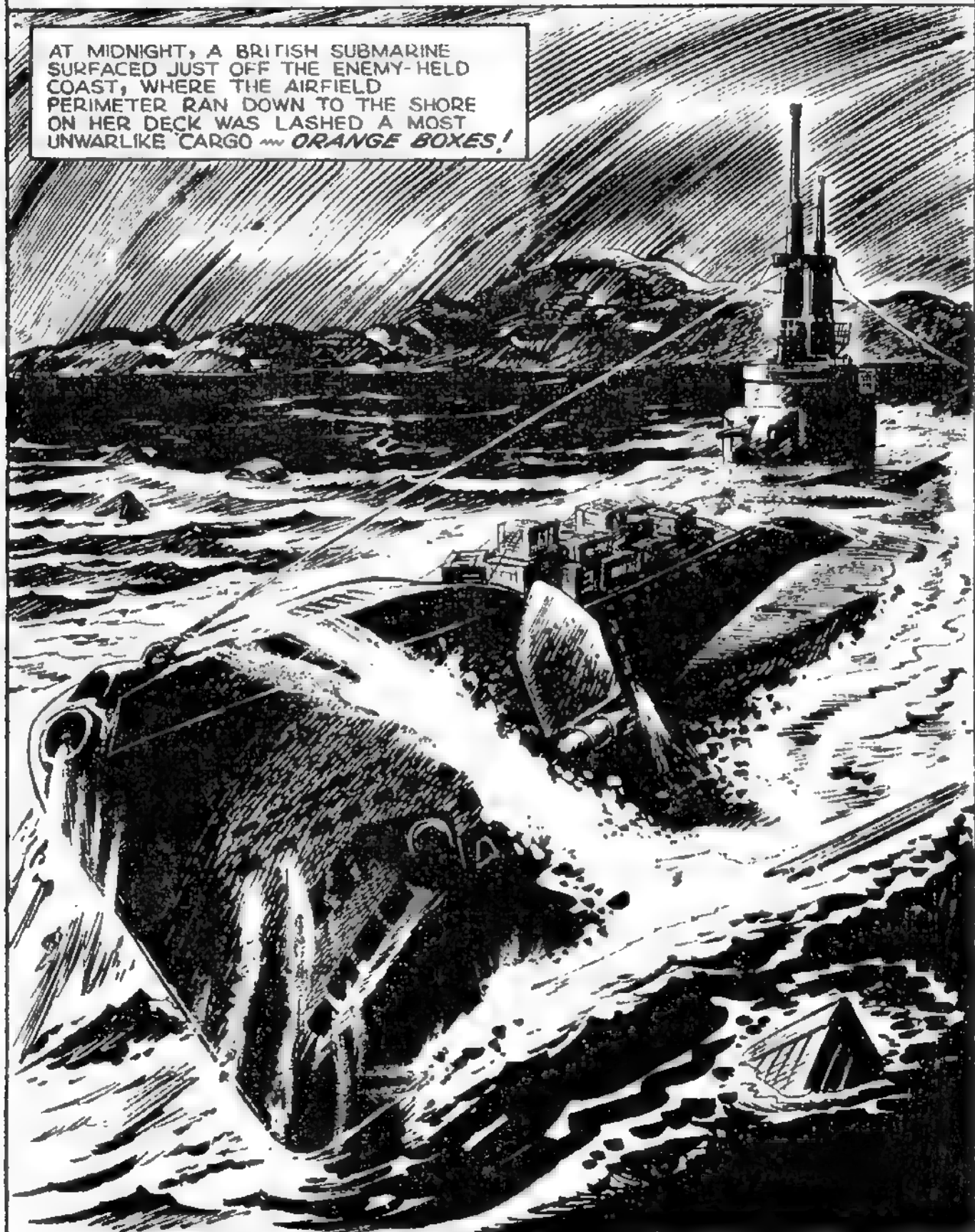
THE TRICKIEST THING IS
GETTING ASHORE. JERRY IS AS
NERVOUS AS A BAG OF CATS. BUT
IF MY PLAN WORKS I THINK
WE SHALL DO IT





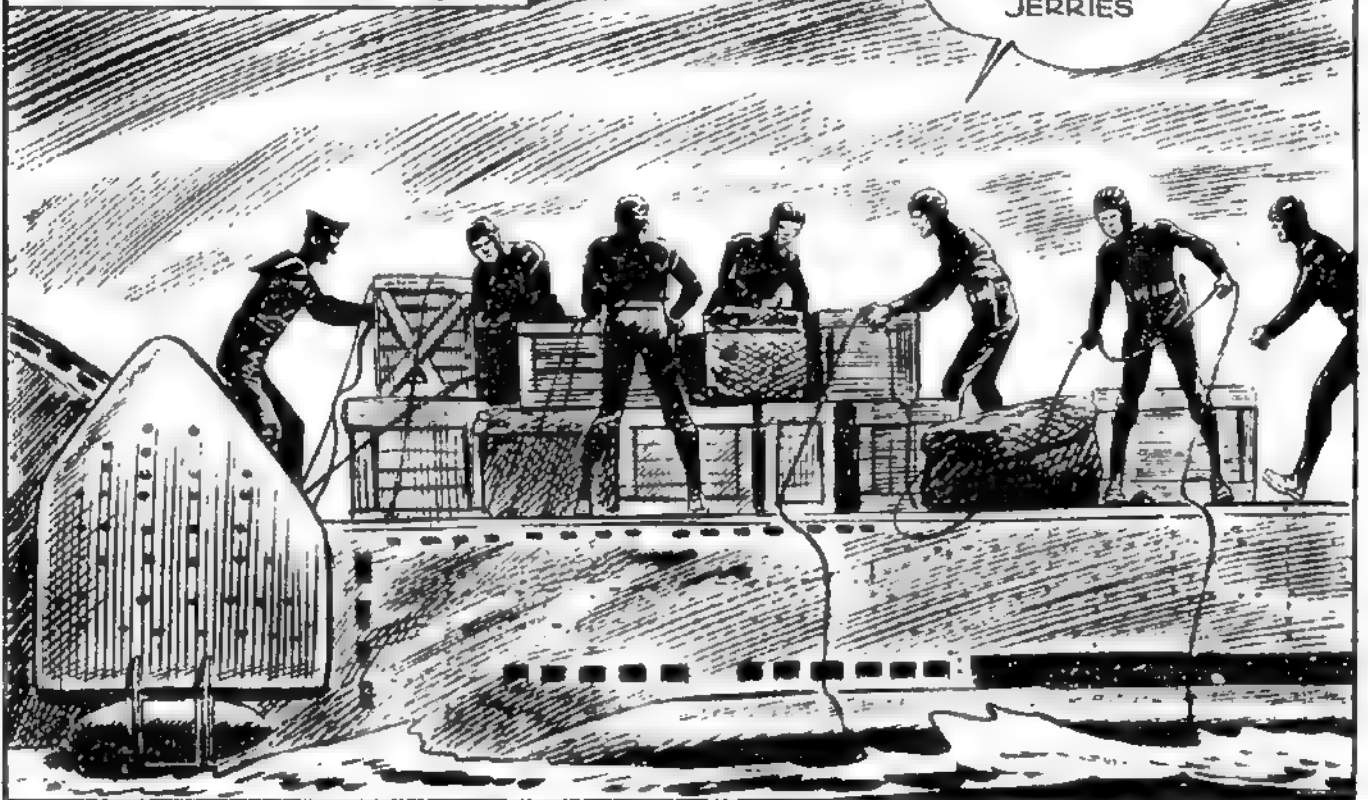
Chapter 4. OPERATION FLOTSAM

AT MIDNIGHT, A BRITISH SUBMARINE SURFACED JUST OFF THE ENEMY-HELD COAST, WHERE THE AIRFIELD PERIMETER RAN DOWN TO THE SHORE ON HER DECK WAS LASHED A MOST UNWARLIKE CARGO — *ORANGE BOXES!*



THE FORE HATCH LIFTED AND OUT SLIPPED THE COMMANDOS, EACH MAN QUIETLY UNLASHING HIS ISSUE OF "FLOTSAM"!

LET'S HOPE THESE CRATES FOOL THE JERRIES



SILENTLY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE COMMANDO FROGMEN SLIPPED INTO THE WATER AND BEGAN TO SWIM TOWARDS THE SHORE, PUSHING THE ORANGE CRATES BEFORE THEM...

ONE THING...THE SEA'S QUITE CHOPPY, SO JERRY WON'T HEAR YOU GOOD LUCK!



THIS SAME THOUGHT WAS IN COLIN'S MIND. BUT WOULD THE GERMANS MISTAKE THE CRATES FOR GENUINE FLOTSAM?



AS THE COMMANDOS NEARED THE SHORE, SWIMMING PAST OTHER FLOATING WRECKAGE FROM SUNKEN SHIPS, THEY SIGHTED FOUR GERMAN MACHINE-GUN POSTS, WELL CONCEALED AMONGST THE BOULDERS.



THEN, SUDDENLY, THE DARKNESS WAS PIERCED BY THE BRILLIANT BEAMS OF TWO SEARCHLIGHTS. COLIN AND HIS MEN FROZE, CLINGING TO THE BOXES WHICH THEY HAD IN FRONT OF THEM.

KEEP STILL, EVERYBODY...IT'S PROBABLY ONLY A ROUTINE CHECK.



COLIN HAD HARDLY SPOKEN WHEN A STREAM OF SHELLS FROM ONE OF THE GUNS RIPPED INTO A FLOATING BOX PICKED OUT BY A SEARCHLIGHT ...

GOT IT!



Attack and Destroy

FORTUNATELY, THE BOX HAD NOT CONCEALED A COMMANDO...AND COLIN AND HIS MEN WAITED TENSELY. WOULD THE GUNNER FIRE ANOTHER BURST?



TO THE RELIEF OF THE COMMANDOS, THE SEARCHLIGHTS WERE SUDDENLY SWITCHED OFF AND THEY WERE SHROUDED IN DARKNESS AGAIN.

JERRY MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING OUT HIS GUN! OKAY, LET'S MOVE IN!



WITH UTMOST CAUTION THE RESOLUTE MEN INCHED THEIR WAY TO THE SHORE AND, REMOVING THEIR WEAPONS FROM THE WATER-TIGHT BOXES, THEY WERE READY TO ATTACK...



THEN, AS ONE MAN, THEY FELL ON THE GERMAN GUNNERS, TAKING THEIR SILENT TOLL.

QUICK...
DON'T LET
'EM SHOUT!



Attack and Destroy

WITH THE GUN CREW
SILENCED, COLIN AND
HIS MEN INSTANTLY
MOVED ON ...

THERE'S A
MINEFIELD AHEAD,
MEN... FOLLOW ME...
BUT KEEP SPACED
OUT ...



MOVING SWIFTLY AND
SILENTLY, THE COMMANDO
LEADER LED HIS MEN
ALONG THE TRACK THROUGH
THE MINEFIELD ...



CLOSE TO THE AIRFIELD, COLIN SIGNALLLED HIS MEN TO HALT. THERE, IN VIEW OF THE STUKAS WHICH THEY AIMED TO DESTROY, THE MAJOR POINTED OUT OTHER OBJECTIVES FOR DESTRUCTION... AND DETAILED HIS MEN FOR THEIR DIFFERENT TASKS.

RIGHT... YOU ALL KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO... GET GOING, MEN!



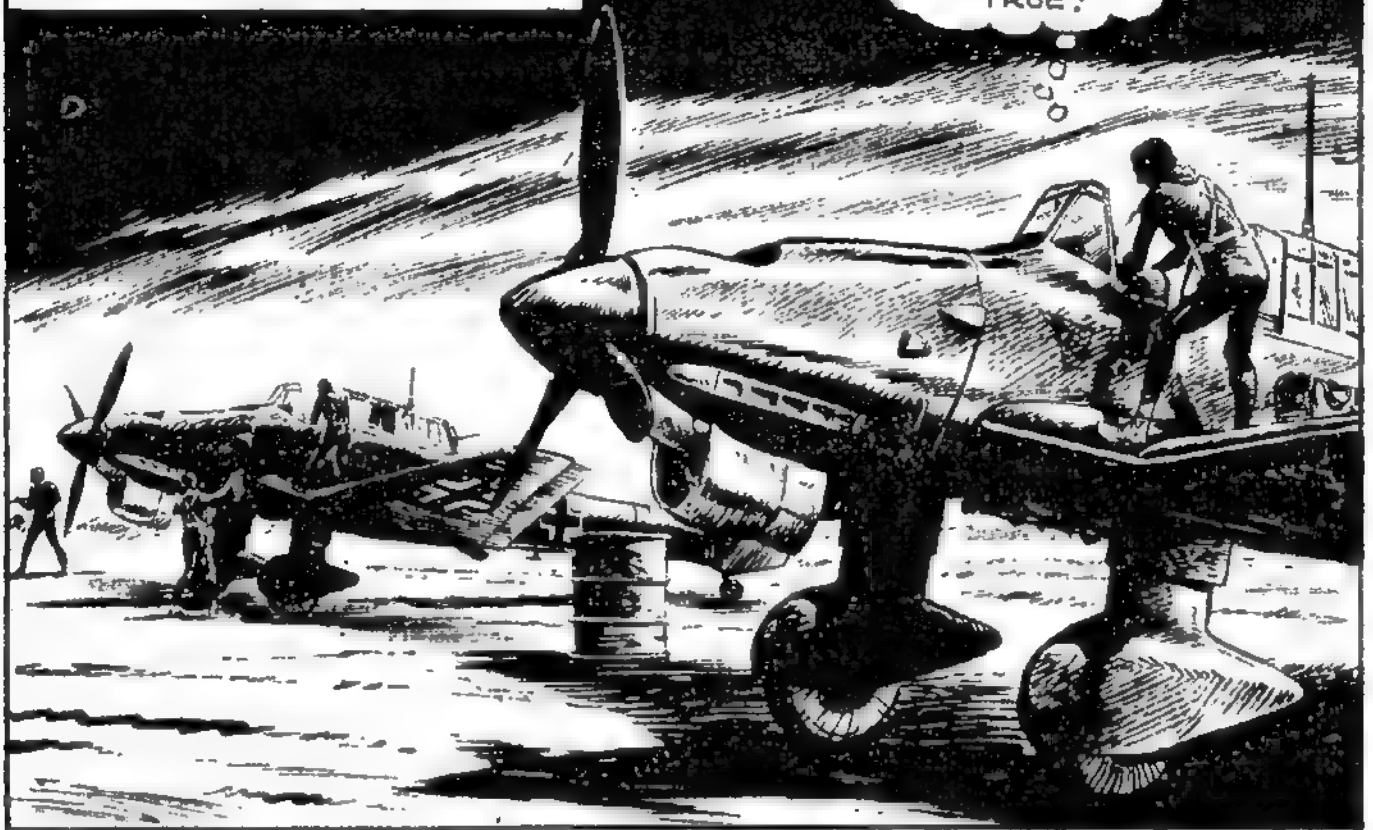
LIKE WRAITHS, THE COMMANDOS MOVED THROUGH THE DARKNESS TOWARDS THEIR DIFFERENT TARGETS. COLIN LED HIS SQUAD STRAIGHT TO THE FIRST STUKAS.



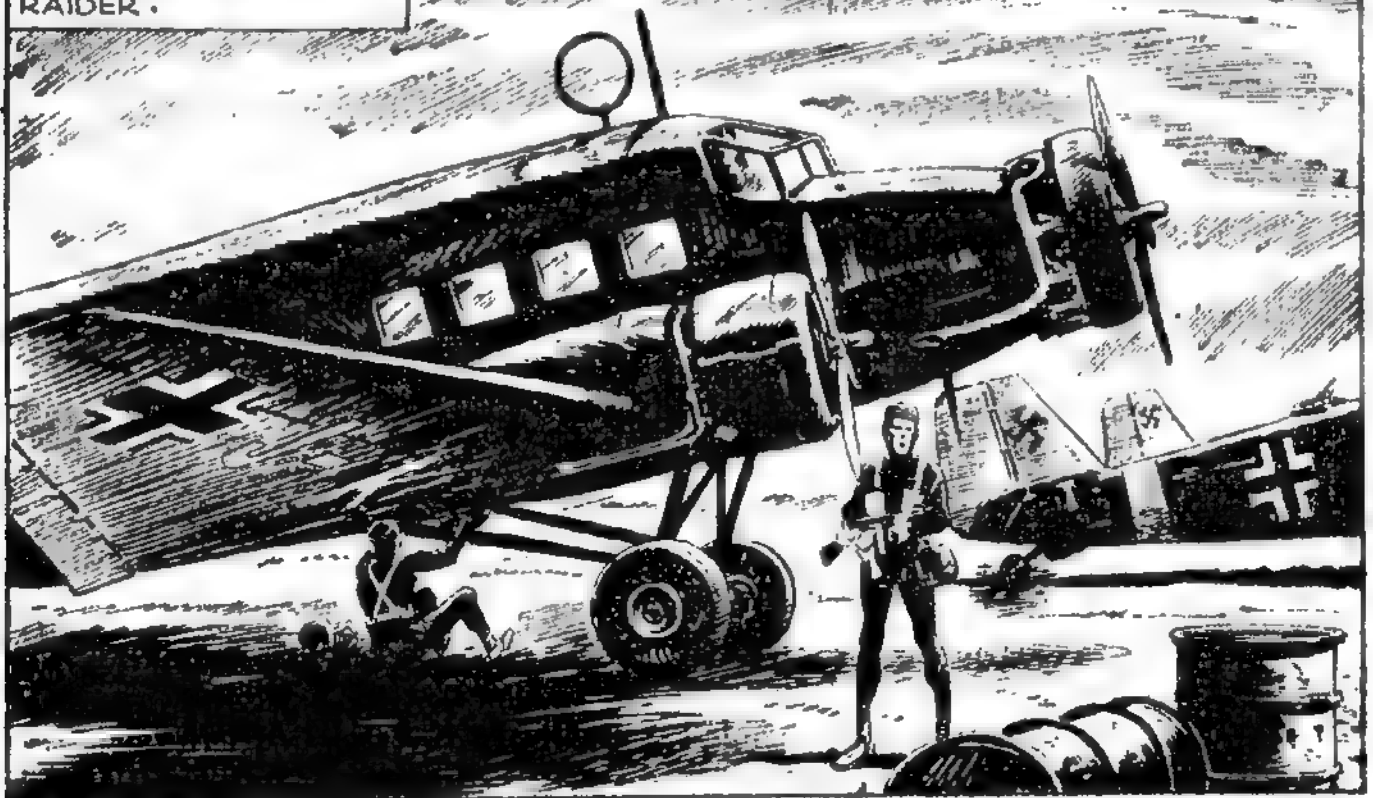
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FLEETING ALONG THE SILENT
LINE OF AIRCRAFT THEY PLACED
THEIR DEADLY TIME BOMBS...

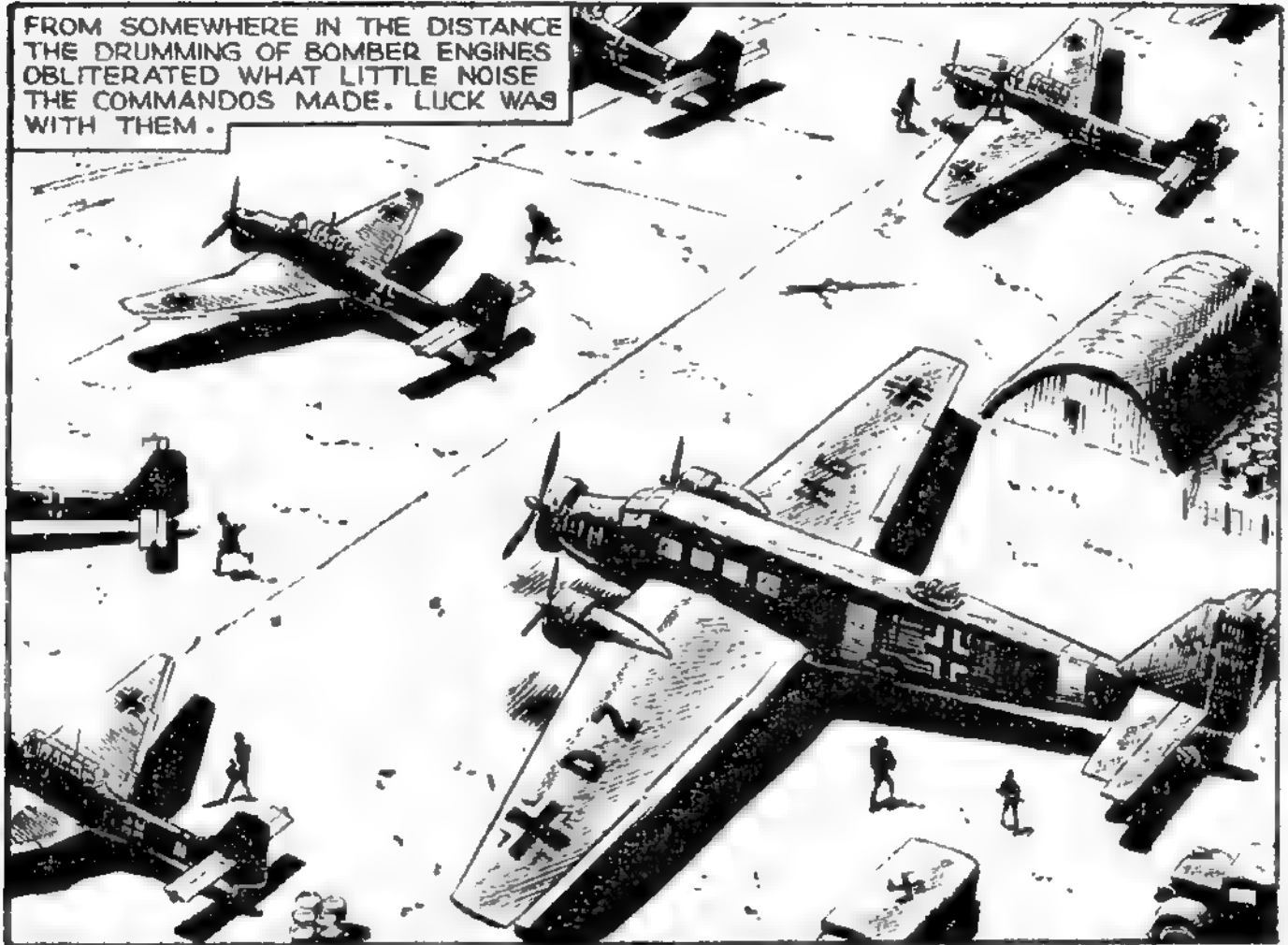
THIS IS TOO
EASY TO BE
TRUE!



A PARKED JU 52 SUPPLY
PLANE GOT THE SAME
TREATMENT FROM
ANOTHER PHANTOM
RAIDER.



FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANCE THE DRUMMING OF BOMBER ENGINES OBLITERATED WHAT LITTLE NOISE THE COMMANDOS MADE. LUCK WAS WITH THEM.



COLIN MOVED ON TOWARDS A BOMB DUMP.

THIS MUST HAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION!



BUT AS COLIN WAS PLANTING HIS BOMB, A GREAT FIGURE SUDDENLY LOOMED UP BEHIND HIM.

UH!



THE COMMANDO REACTED LIKE LIGHTNING ...



IN GRIM SILENCE THE TWO MEN GRAPPLED. THE GERMAN CLOSED A HAND ON THE COMMANDO'S THROAT.



THEN JUST AS BLACKNESS WAS ABOUT TO ENGULF THE YOUNG MAJOR, HELP CAME!



THE NEWCOMER'S GRIP DID NOT SLACKEN FOR AN INSTANT UNTIL THE HEFTY GERMAN SUDDENLY WENT LIMP.



THEN COLIN RECOGNISED HIS RESCUER...

JUMBO!
BY ALL THAT'S
WONDERFUL!



YOU OKAY,
COLIN?

IT WAS CAPTAIN FREEMAN,
MIRACULOUSLY ALIVE.

Attack and Destroy

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HELPING COLIN TO HIS FEET, JUMBO FREEMAN EXPLAINED HOW HE AND THE OTHER TWO COMMANDOS HAD SURVIVED THE WADHI STORMFLOOD, ONLY TO BE CAPTURED BY A GERMAN PATROL.

THEY THREW US IN THE CLINK, BUT A COUPLE OF YOUR BOYS FOUND US. SO I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU... AND ONLY JUST ARRIVED IN TIME, BY HECK!

I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER, ALL RIGHT!



GREATLY RELIEVED TO FIND JUMBO FREEMAN ALIVE, COLIN TURNED TO THE JOB IN HAND IN HIGH SPIRITS.

WHACKO! LET'S CELEBRATE BY BLOWING THIS LOT UP!

...BY THE OLD FIRM, NELSON AND FREEMAN, DEMOLITION EXPERTS!



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THEY PLACED THE TIME-BOMBS... BUT IN THE SAME SECOND, A SHEET OF FLAME LIT THE ENTIRE AIRFIELD.

WHAT THE DICKENS?

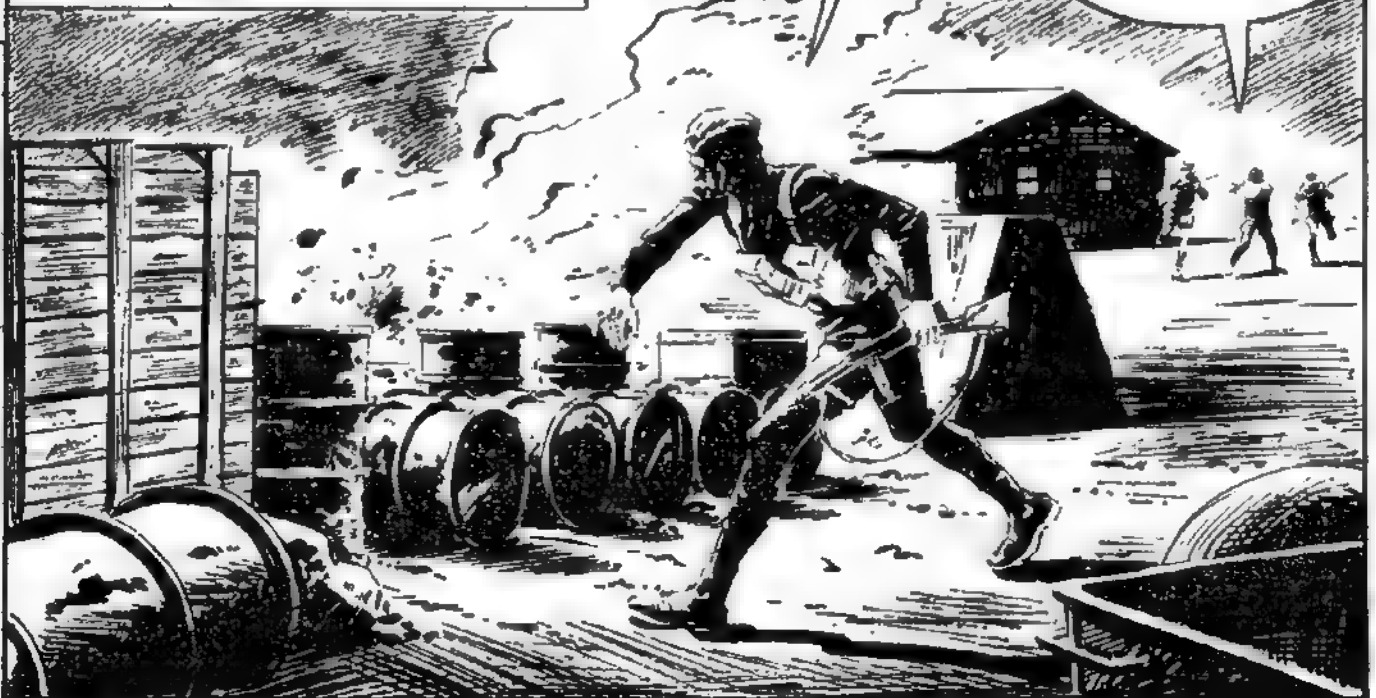
SERGEANT RUDGE! HE'S BLOWN THE FUEL DUMP BEFORE TIME!



UNFORTUNATELY, SERGEANT RUDGE HAD BEEN SPOTTED BY THE ENEMY GUARDS. IN A MOMENT, THE ALARM WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN ANYWAY SO HE HAD DECIDED TO FIRE THE FUEL DUMP RATHER THAN LEAVE HIS TASK INCOMPLETED.

HERE GOES ANOTHER ONE! THIS'LL GIVE THE LADS WARNING THAT THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE!

ACHTUNG! COMMANDOS! AFTER HIM!



THE MOUNTING FLAMES TURNED NIGHT TO DAY, AND THE CURSING COMMANDOS LEAPT FOR THE SHADOWS. ALARM SIRENS SOUNDED AND GERMANS APPEARED FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

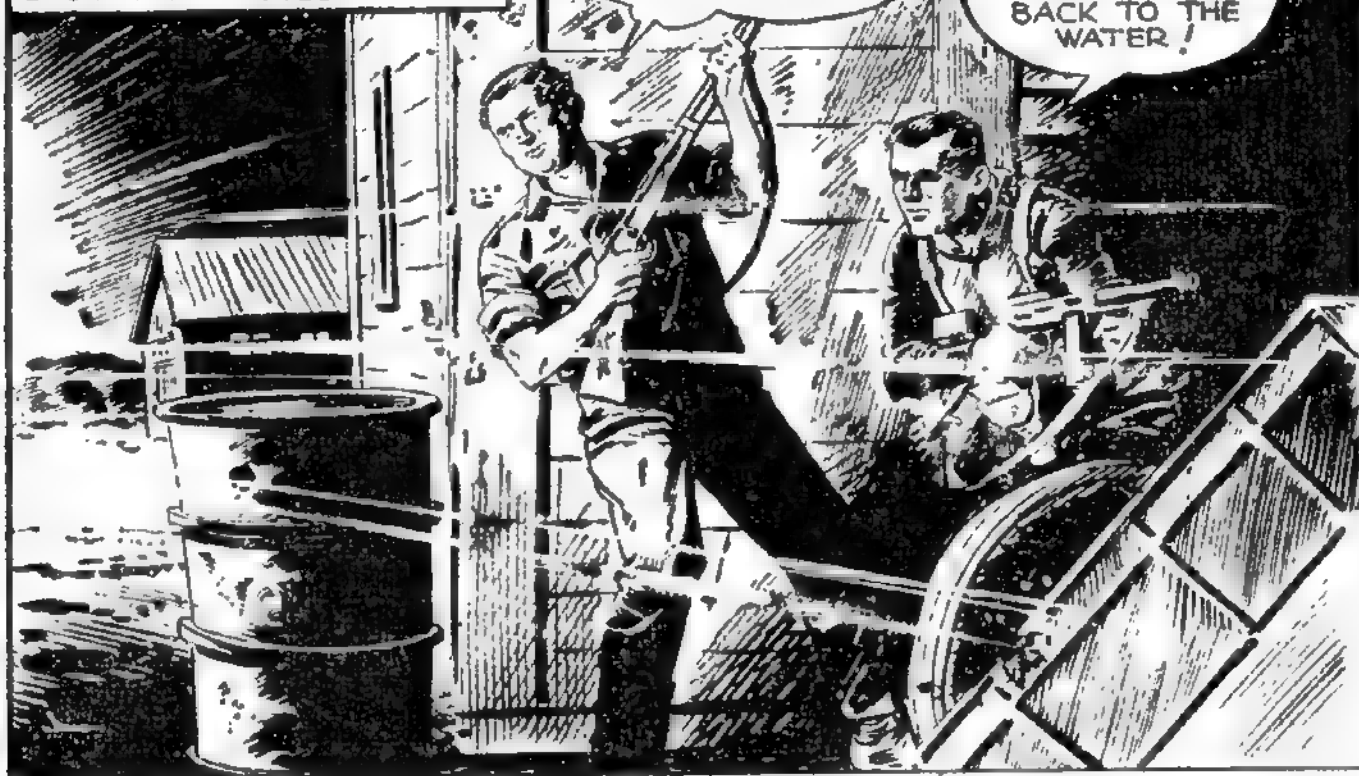


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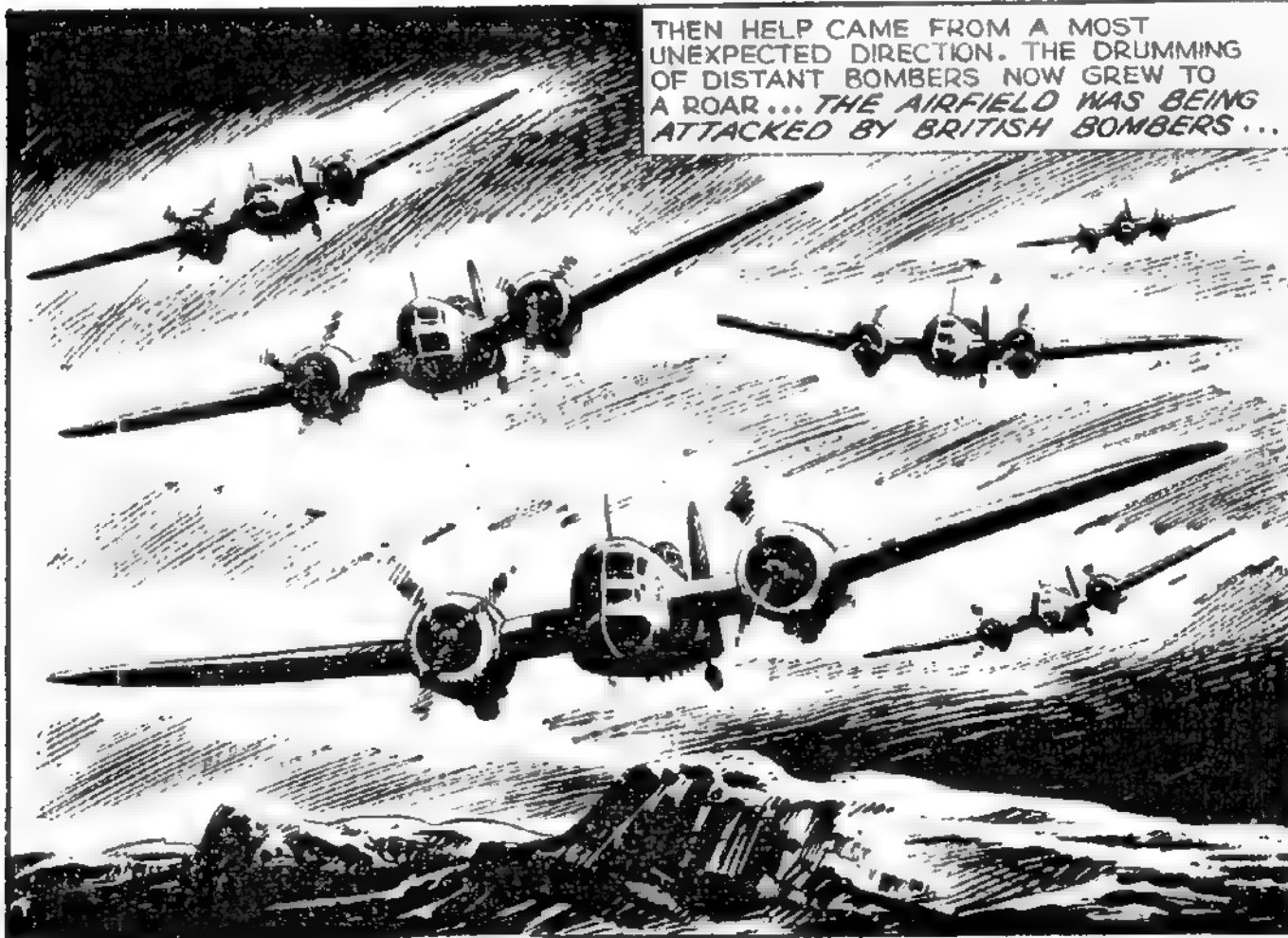
THE GERMANS FIRED ON SIGHT AT EVERY BLACK-CLAD BODY THAT MOVED.

THIS IS GOING TO BE TRICKY!

IF ONLY THE CHAPS COULD GET BACK TO THE WATER!



THEN HELP CAME FROM A MOST UNEXPECTED DIRECTION. THE DRUMMING OF DISTANT BOMBERS NOW GREW TO A ROAR... *THE AIRFIELD WAS BEING ATTACKED BY BRITISH BOMBERS...*



Chapter 5. **RUNNING FIGHT**

SCUDDING ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY, THE BRITISH BLENHEIMS MISTOOK THE GLARE BELOW FOR A PATHFINDER MARKER ON TUNIS HARBOUR AND BEGAN DROPPING THEIR DEADLY CARGOES OF BOMBS.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A MARKER!

BOMBS GONE!



Attack and Destroy

IN SECONDS THE GERMAN AIRFIELD WAS BLASTED BY THE EXPLODING BOMBS... HANGARS AND AMMUNITION DUMPS WERE BLOWN SKYWARDS...



COLIN QUICKLY ROUNDED UP HIS MEN AND GAVE THE ORDER TO RETIRE...

QUICK... BACK TO THE BEACH!

DON'T RELISH BEING BUMPED OFF BY OUR OWN BOMBS!



BUT AS THE COMMANDOS RACED BACK ACROSS THE MINEFIELD THEY WERE FIRED UPON BY A DETERMINED ENEMY.



COLIN FLUNG HIMSELF BEHIND A ROCK AND HELD OFF THE PURSUERS FOR SEVERAL PRECIOUS SECONDS ...



Attack and Destroy

THE GERMANS CAME ON, GUNS CHATTERING. THEN, JUST AS IT SEEMED COLIN'S POSITION WOULD BE OVER-RUN, A BOMB DUMP BLEW UP, BLASTING THE ENEMY OFF THEIR FEET!



AS COLIN RACED UP BEHIND HIS COMRADES, WHO WERE NOW ENTERING THE WATER, A SEARCHLIGHT BEAM SWEEPED ALONG THE BEACH AND GERMAN MACHINE-GUNS OPENED FIRE ON THEM ...

QUICK, MEN, SWIM FOR YOUR LIVES!



SCORNING THE GERMAN BULLETS, COLIN TURNED AND FIRED AT THE SEARCHLIGHT ...

THERE'S ONE OF THEM...
GET HIM!



COLIN'S BULLETS SMASHED INTO THE SEARCHLIGHT JUST IN TIME. LOST TO THE VIEW OF THE GERMAN GUNNERS, WHO WERE FIRING WILDLY THROUGH THE DARKNESS, HE PLUNGED INTO THE WATER AND SWAM AFTER THE OTHER COMMANDOS ...

THEY CAN'T SEE US NOW, BUT BY GOLLY, THOSE BULLETS ARE STRIKING PRETTY CLOSE!



THE COMMANDOS SWAM FURIOUSLY TO GET OUT OF RANGE OF THE ENEMY MACHINE-GUNS, WHILE BOMBS FROM THE BRITISH BOMBERS, FALLING OFF TARGET, CRASHED INTO THE SEA AROUND THEM. MORE SUFFERED HITS, BUT EACH WOUNDED MAN HAD A STOUT-HEARTED COMRADE ALONGSIDE ...

YOU'RE DOING FINE, CHAPS... KEEP GOING!



THEN, AS IF TO GIVE THE EXHAUSTED MEN THE FILLIP THEY NEEDED, THERE CAME THE WELCOME BLASTS OF THEIR TIME-BOMBS EXPLODING

HEAR THAT? THERE GO THE STUKAS!



IT WOULD HAVE CHEERED
THEM EVEN MORE TO
HAVE SEEN THE RESULT
OF THEIR MAGNIFICENT
NIGHT'S WORK.



TO THE BLENHEIM
PILOTS OVERHEAD
THE GROUND BELOW
PRESENTED A
PUZZLING BUT
PLEASING SIGHT...

THAT'S
NOT TUNIS
HARBOUR!



THEN A WELCOME SIGHT LOOMED
UP AHEAD OF THE SWIMMING
COMMANDOS. THE SUBMARINE
GALLANTLY MAINTAINING
POSITION DESPITE "FRIENDLY"
BOMBS, NOSED TOWARDS THEM.
COLIN FOUND JUMBO FREEMAN
BY HIS SIDE.

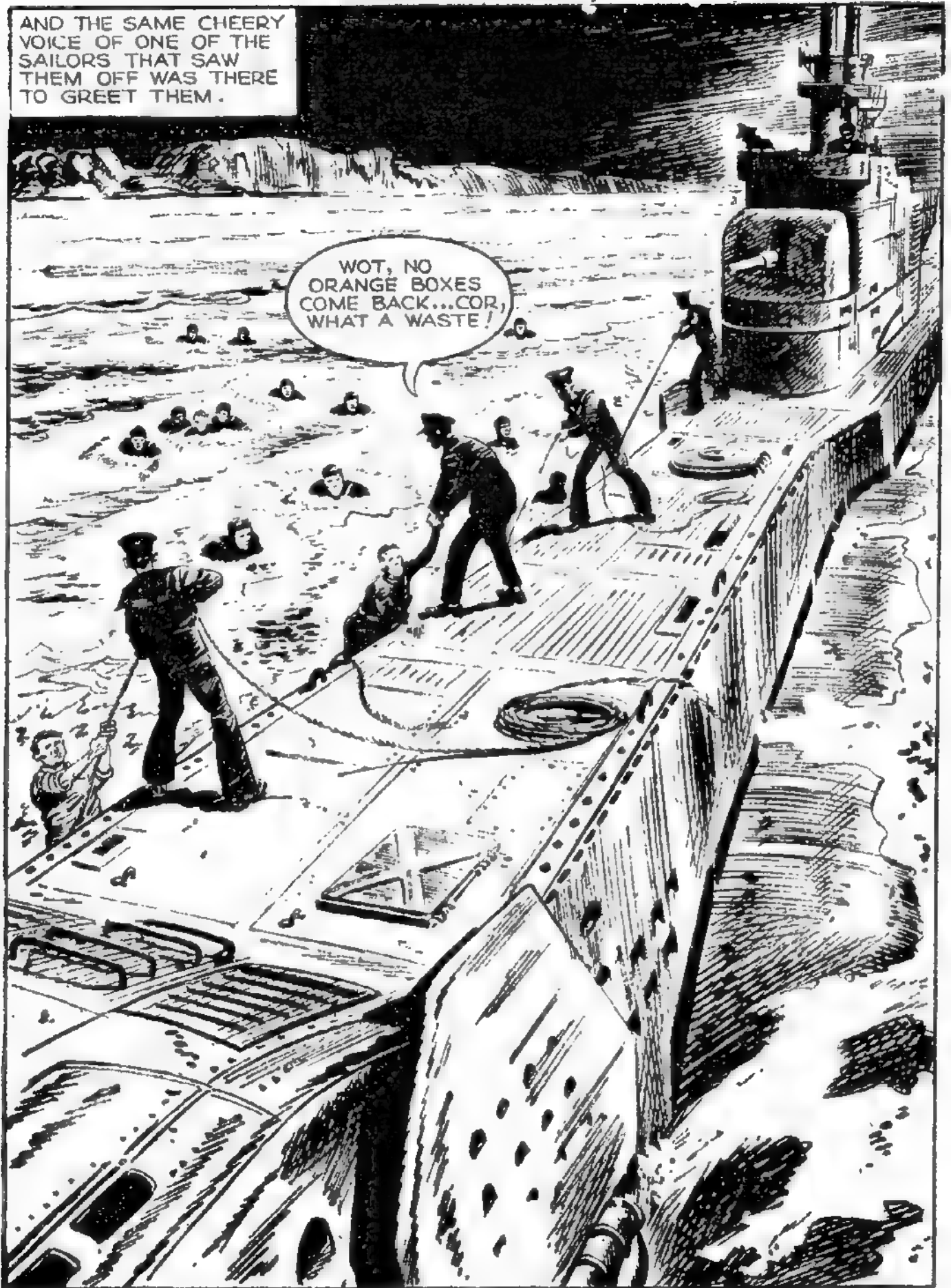
HOORAY FOR
THE NAVY!

NICE WORK,
COLIN...THERE'S
THE SUB



AND THE SAME CHEERY VOICE OF ONE OF THE SAILORS THAT SAW THEM OFF WAS THERE TO GREET THEM.

WOT, NO ORANGE BOXES COME BACK...COR, WHAT A WASTE!



SOON ALL WERE SAFELY ABOARD AND TOASTING THE SUCCESS OF THEIR OPERATION WITH HOT DRINKS

HERE'S TO YOU COMMANDOS!

HERE'S TO THE FINE WORK OF THE NAVY!



BACK AT BASE A FEW DAYS LATER COLIN WAS CONGRATULATED BY GENERAL BADGERSON, WHOSE MEN AND ARMOUR WERE ON THE MOVE.

THANKS TO THE FINE JOB YOU CHAPS PUT UP WE CAN NOW GET ON WITH THE WAR --AND FINISH IT IN NORTH AFRICA, ANYWAY!



THE ALLIED ARMIES WERE POISED FOR THE FINAL THRUST ON ROMMEL'S LAST STRONGHOLD, AND WITH THE SKY ABOVE THEM NOW CLEARED OF STUKA BOMBERS, THEY SURGED FORWARD WITH IRRESISTIBLE FORCE.



Attack and Destroy

AND ON A HIGH BLUFF, BESIDE THE GENERAL AND HIS STAFF OFFICERS STOOD MAJOR COLIN NELSON, WATCHING THIS TRIUMPHANT ADVANCE. HE WAS HUMBLY PROUD THAT HE AND HIS MEN HAD PLAYED NO SMALL PART IN THIS STIRRING SCENE BEFORE THEM.

GENTLEMEN ... IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO WITNESS THE FINAL ACT IN THE NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN... GALLANTLY FOUGHT... AND MAGNIFICENTLY WON!



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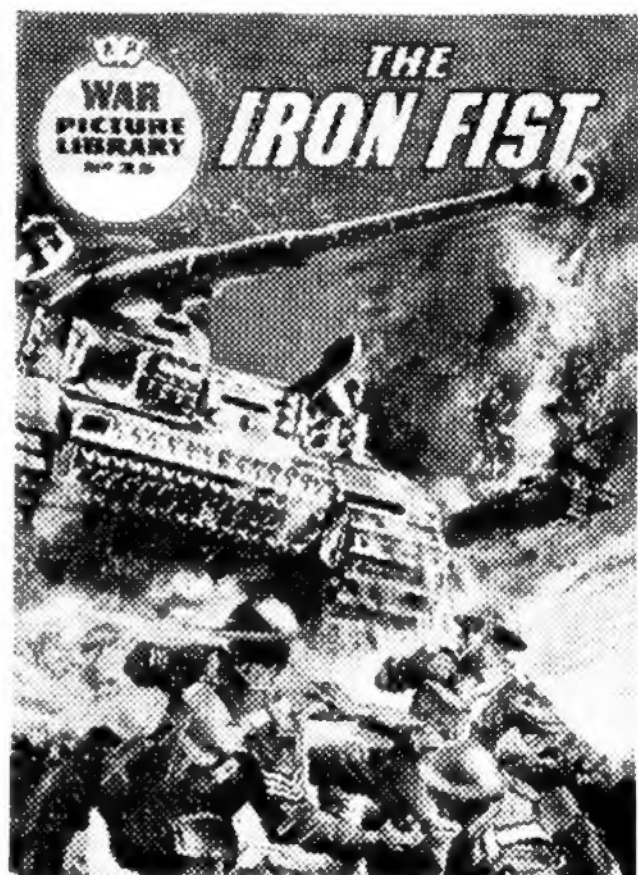
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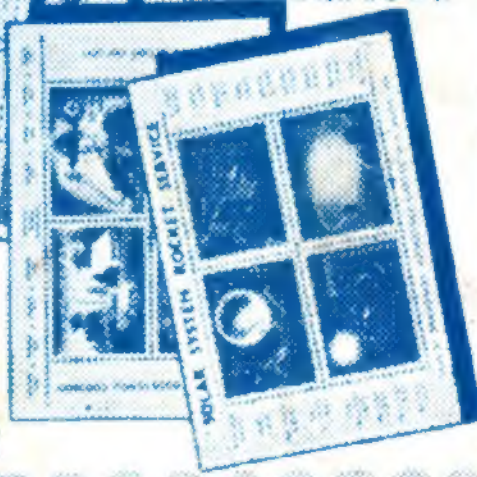
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